

THE SON OF A SERVANT. By AUGUST STRINDBERG. William Rider & Son.

WHY not "The Soul of a Servant"? The hero is a sort of Scandinavian Neuburg. He is always being "bullied" and treated with "injustice," however kind people are to him. Here are two cases, accurately taken from the book, but rendered in dialogue.

*I. In class:*

MASTER. What do you know of Gustavus Adolphus?

BOY [with *gloomy pride that he knows all about G.A.*]. R—r—r—gr!

MASTER. Come now, surely you don't mind telling us something about him.

BOY [stung *to madness by this senseless torture*]. I know *all* about Gustavus Adolphus.

MASTER. Well, that's splendid. Let's see now, who was he?

BOY [beyond *himself*]. Tyrant! Monster! Brute! White slaver! Mar—con—ee!

*II. In the family circle:*

JOHN [to *his brother*]. Now, Albert, I should like *you* to take some flowers to Mother for a present.

ALBERT. All right. [They *enter shop*.]

JOHN. Here's the money.

ALBERT. All right. [They *reach home*.]

JOHN. Now you go in all by yourself and say, "Here are some flowers for you, Mother." I will wait outside.

ALBERT. All right. [Within.] Here are some flowers for you, Mother!

MOTHER. Oh, thank you, Albert, how beautiful!

FATHER. Very kindly thought of, my son!

JOHN. Oh! the black blind hideous horrible injustice of it all! [With *conviction*.] There is no God!

As the book consists of little else but episodes of this kind, it will be seen that the entertained attention of the judicious reader need never flag.

A.C.